

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS “NATIONAL MONUMENT” PROPOSAL

The preservation of forestlands of the San Gabriel Mountains is a worthy goal. An effort by the federal government to create a “National Recreation Area” has been discussed with various community groups as well as county agencies and departments concerned about potential impacts. However, the process to adopt a “National Recreation Area” has been hastily replaced by an effort to ask the Obama Administration to declare a “National Monument” status. This new effort has not yet been vetted by the County, the community and all affected stakeholders for its potential impact on private property rights, flood control, water management, fire-fighting and other emergency service operations and ways to mitigate them.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. Send a 5-signature letter to Congresswoman Judy Chu, the Obama Administration and the County’s congressional delegation requesting a delay in the process to establish monument status to provide the County, multiple stakeholders and all impacted agencies and municipal governments an opportunity to discuss and review its potential impacts; and
2. Work with all affected departments to determine any impacts on public safety, flood control or emergency services and report back to the Board in 30 days; and
3. Send a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service, which is the lead Federal agency in the National Monument process, stating the impacts on public safety, flood control and emergency services.

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MDA:tb
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MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____